

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0289

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV,SP,WG
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEWS OF CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT'S
VISIT

REF: MADRID 0148

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC AFFAIRS, JORGE DEL PINO, TOLD US THAT THE SCHMIDT-SUAREZ CONVERSATIONS HAD GONE QUITE WELL. THERE HAD BEEN AN INTERESTING BIT OF BY PLAY IN SETTING THEM UP. SCHMIDT HAD COME TO THE COSTA DEL SOL FOR VACATION, BUT WHEN HE MADE HIS PLANS HE BELIEVED THAT SUAREZ WOULD BE TAKING CHRISTMAS VACATION IN THE VICINITY AND RATHER EXPECTED TO ACCOMPLISH A MEETING WITH SUAREZ IN THIS INFORMAL FASHION. SUAREZ LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE WAS NOT TAKING A VACATION THIS CHRISTMAS, GIVEN THE OBVIOUS PRESS OF EVENTS, AND SCHMIDT DECIDED TO COME TO MADRID.

2. DEL PINO DID NOT KNOW WHAT HAD PASSED BETWEEN SCHMIDT AND THE KING, BUT THE SCHMIDT-SUAREZ CONVERSATIONS SHOWED AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL AND STRATEGIC MATTERS. THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF HOW THE GERMANS HANDLED LABOR RELATIONS, ELECTORAL MATTERS AND
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RELATED SUBJECTS, ALL OF WHICH ARE SQUARELY IN FRONT OF SUAREZ THESE DAYS. DEL PINO ADDED THIS VISIT OF COURSE WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SUAREZ AND THE RULING GERMAN PARTY BEGUN WITH THE WILLY BRANDT CONVERSATION WITH SUAREZ AT THE TIME OF THE PSOE (SOCIALIST) CONGRESS. BUT THEY WERE GLAD TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO SCHMIDT WHO WAS A LEADER OF THE GERMAN GOVERN-

MENT, AND HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT VIEWS OF THE LIBERALS AS WELL AS THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. DEL PINO DID SAY THAT HE THOUGHT SCHMIDT HAD ADVISED SUAREZ NOT TO MOVE TOO PRECIPITATELY SHOULD THERE BE DANGER SIGNS AHEAD. IN THIS PART OF DEL PINO'S REMARKS THERE WAS AN ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE INFERENCE THAT SCHMIDT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BETTER INTERLOCUTOR FROM SUAREZ'S POINT OF VIEW THAN BRANDT.

3. THOUGH DEL PINO DID NOT MENTION SCHMIDT'S MEETING WITH PSOE LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ, PSOE SOURCES (ENRIQUE MUGICA AND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY LUIS YANEZ) HAVE EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT THE RESULTS AND AT THE FACT THAT HE MET WITH GONZALEZ BEFORE HE MET WITH SUAREZ. MUGICA SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SCHMIDT, IN TALKING PRIVATELY AND INFORMALLY WITH SUAREZ, HAD TAKEN PRETTY MUCH THE APPROACH ADVOCATED BY GONZALES. (THIS MAY BE PUFFERY BUT, AT ALL EVENTS, SUAREZ AND GONZALEZ, DESPITE THEIR PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES, SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG PRETTY WELL THESE DAYS WHICH SUGGESTS THAT SCHMIDT MIGHT NOT HAVE FOUND TOO MUCH PRACTICAL DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO MEN) WE EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT SCHMIDT DID CAUTION THE PSOE, AS THE GERMANS USEFULLY AND CONTINUALLY DO, ABOUT THE NEED TO KEEP THE SOCIALIST'S DISTANCE FROM THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY..STABLER

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